



October 31, 2017

Hank Vaupel, DVM  
Chair, House Health Policy Committee  
Michigan House of Representatives  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Dr. Vaupel,

On behalf of the Michigan Biosciences Industry Association (MichBio), I would like to convey our full support for the Substitute for House Bill 4472, which permits substitution of interchangeable biologic medicines by Michigan pharmacists.

MichBio represents the bioscience industry in Michigan that includes biotechnology and pharmaceutical manufacturers, distributors and wholesalers.

We support the Substitute for HB 4472 because it contains important provisions that consider the special and complex characteristics of biologic medicines. Unlike traditional chemically derived medicines, biologics are made from living organisms making them effective in treating life-threatening diseases.

It is critical that pharmacy substitution with these special medicines should ensure patient safety by limiting substitution to biologics designated as "interchangeable" by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. More importantly, prompt notification and open communications is essential between the pharmacy and prescriber as a way to ensure all those involved in a patient's care know exactly the course of treatment for that patient. The Substitute for HB 4472 by Representative Bizon contains those important provisions, which is why we encourage you and your colleagues on the Health Policy Committee to support this specific legislation.

We are encouraged that your committee is giving full consideration to HB 4472. Please do not hesitate to contact me or us if you have questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Stephen Rapundalo, PhD  
President and CEO